



#MCNVOTE2015

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Citizen receives award from
Tulsa mayor — Page 3

Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Aug. 15, 2015 “Hiyo Rakko” Big Harvest

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MCN reaches out to citizens on the west coast

Officials, candidates attend CMCA meeting

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens gathered Aug. 1 for the annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association meeting at the Community Center for Spiritual Living in Riverside, Calif.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation representatives were available to reach out to citizens in the area and provide information on programs.

Some 2015 MCN election candidates traveled to the meeting to interact with at-large citizens.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Victoria Bomberry appreciated her tribe's efforts to connect.

“It's always wonderful to have the tribe come out to visit us,” Bomberry said. “We're in California and a lot of people don't have the resources or access to go back to Oklahoma all of the time so it's really good to have the tribe come out here and create a presence for us.”

Eugene Herrod, a CMCA volunteer talked about the history of MCN, dissolution of the MCN government and recreation in the 1970s.

He was grateful to be able to speak with candidates for the upcoming election and believes that voting is one of

West - 2

Reintegration staff goes undercover for Homeless Project



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program employees Kevin Green, who went undercover as Ray (left), and Sprint Williams (right), who went as Diego, for the RiP Homeless Project July 17-19 in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

Project gives program better understanding of clients

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What started as a conversation between Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Senior

Case Manager Sprint Williams and Project Coordinator Kevin Green lead them to a life they could of never imagined.

While going to visit clients, Williams and Green observed the homeless and wondered what it would be like to have to live on the streets. RiP conducted a homeless project to bring awareness by

having two staff members live on the streets for three days in downtown Tulsa.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness website, in January 2014 there were 578,424 people experiencing homelessness on any given

Homeless - 8

Bird family files wrongful death suit



Jessica McBride/MNN

Benjamin Crump, attorney for the family of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III, speaks during a press conference Aug. 3 at the Riggs Abney Law Office in Tulsa, Okla.

Report reveals marijuana in guard's system during incident

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

TULSA, Okla. — Attorneys for the family of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III released the toxicology report for security guard Ricky

Stone who was involved in a shooting incident involving Bird Feb. 4.

The information was given during a press conference held Aug. 3 in Tulsa by the family at the Riggs Abney Law Office, which has provided legal

Bird - 4



MNN File Photo

CCA gives Council House update

Nearby building purchased for visitor center

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives have long-term plans for the MCN Council House in downtown

Okmulgee.

CCA has been working with historic architects over the past few months to uncover some of the elements of the Council House as it was constructed in 1878.

Also, included in the plans is

Update - 2

MCN interns celebrate with end of season banquet

Program helps students succeed

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation College Work Experience Program came to a close July 31 with a celebration banquet at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills.

CWE is a program for college juniors, seniors and graduate students to participate in a 12-week internship program.

Several students participated this year.

“We are very proud of our interns and what they have done for themselves this year,” CWE Coordinator Carmen Rudd said. “We feel that our program can help them take that first step forward into employment that is related to their degree.”

Rudd said that the interns had to handle the applications and interviews on their own.

“Everything was up to them,” Rudd said.

Rudd felt that this was a great opportunity.

“I am glad that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation put this idea into what it is now,” Rudd said. “It can help open so many doors for the interns.”

One intern, Grant Proctor said the program has been a big help for him and his career.

“I was on the program last year so I had a little bit of a head start than some of the interns this year,” Proctor said.

Proctor said that the program has turned the internship into a successful venture as he will be starting employment in the fall.

“I learned quite a bit this summer during my internship,” Proctor said. “With the help of this program, I was able to get hired on and start my new job. This program has been a blessing.”

Proctor has something to say for the future interns who will be a part of CWE program.

“This is the perfect situation for you,” Proctor said. “This a great opportunity for the students to get experience in what they want to do after you graduate.”

For more information about the College Work Experience Program call: 918-732-7780.

UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the renovation of the 9,000 square feet Sharpe’s building located across the street.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said the Sharpe’s building, purchased in June with funds from CCA revolving account, would serve as overflow space for the Council House.

“Our goal and ambition is to develop it as a true visitor center for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the capital city of Okmulgee and the Council House,” Giles said.

One major function of the building will be to house the CCA museum collection.

“Other things that will be implemented in there will be a true collections housing facility for the 7,000 plus collection that we now oversee,” Giles said.

Giles said he also wants to include an art gallery, gift shop and community space.

“We are looking forward to working with our own Muscogee Nation artists here to start commissioning work and any typical and general fine art to gift shop works,” he said.

The building will also include office space for CCA.

Giles said that could extend to other departments who have an interest in working downtown.

Plans include a designated community space on the second floor with seating space and movable walls that could

be used for lectures or classes.

“If community members from either Okmulgee or Creek Nation want to have a space to use, that’s something we will be able to provide,” Giles said.

Giles expects construction on the visitor center to take place at the same time as the Council House restorations.

Once construction starts, it is expected to take 12-18 months to renovate.

Construction was slated to start in September.

However, it has been placed on hold as MCN National Council legislation NCA 15-172 to fund the almost \$3.25 million remodel failed in committee as did TR 15-134 to approve an agreement with the architects for renovations.

The legislations’ sponsor, Rep. Mark Randolph said it failed due to lack of available funding because the MCN Department of Health requested a \$4.5 million appropriation to supplement contract health services.

“It’s not that we don’t support the restoration of the Council House because we do,” Randolph said. “We want to see all of that come to fruition. Right now, our priority has to be the people and that’s the only reason.”

Randolph said he plans to resubmit the Council House legislation next fiscal year.

Construction was slated to start in September but has been placed on hold as Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council legislation NCA 15-172, to fund the almost \$3.25 million remodel, failed in committee as did TR 15-134 to approve an agreement with the architects for renovations.

WEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the most important duties as a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

“Parents, remember when it comes to voting, you’re setting an example for your children... Please let your children see you exercise your right to vote,” Herrod said. “Your children will do as you do when they get older.”

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Richard Procello discovered his Muscogee (Creek) heritage in 1994 after his mother passed away and found his grandmother’s enrollment card while going through her items.

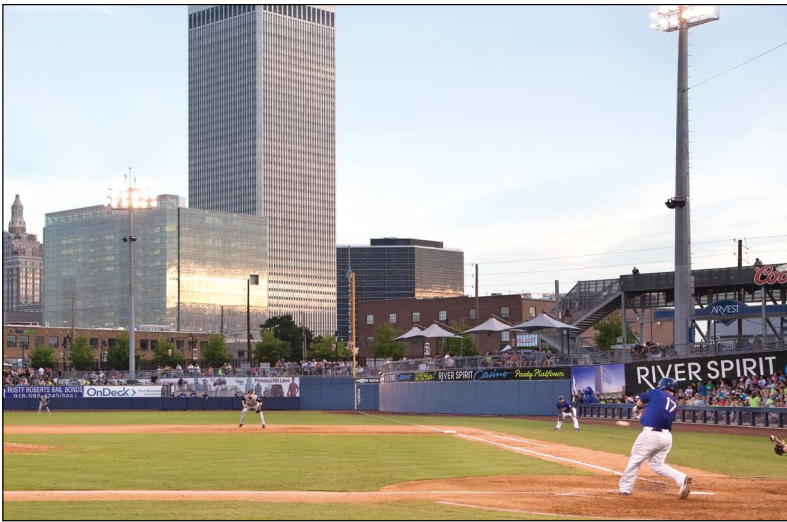
Procello believes that having communication between MCN and citizens in other re-

gions of the U.S. is critical to the citizenship base.

“It’s just a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Nation on an ongoing basis,” Procello said. “So we need to work, I think, more diligently as a tribe, as a Nation to make sure that people who live outside of the territory are part of the whole process, part of the information process and system. I think it requires a great effort on both parts actually.”

The next CMCA meeting will be announced at a later date. For more information about CMCA, contact Jeanna Spirou at: jeannars@yahoo.com.

Nation sponsors ‘Night at the Drillers’ in Tulsa



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation sponsored a Tulsa Drillers baseball game July 17 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Okla.

Free admission provided to citizens for baseball game

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Oklahoma heat was as thick as the smell of hot dogs and fried food that permeated the air July 17 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Night at the Drillers event.

MCN Principal Chief George

Tiger threw the first pitch that evening for the Drillers vs. the Arkansas Travelers baseball game.

“I think it is important that Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a good working partnerships with the communities we’re in,” Tiger said.

MCN sponsorship provided free tickets and participation in the games between innings for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and a

fireworks finale at the end of the game.

Drillers Team President and General Manager Mike Melega said the fireworks are a tradition.

“Part of the entertainment that we bring as the Drillers to ONEOK Field is the promotions that we do and sponsors like you guys make these nights happen. Then, all of Tulsa can really enjoy these types of nights and come to downtown Tulsa,” Melega said.

Melega encouraged everyone to come to a game.

“The casual fan can love and enjoy coming out to ONEOK Field. If you come out here for the first time with little ones, you want to make sure they come out in a bathing suit, especially this time of year,” Melega said. “We’ve got a splash zone right behind the center field wall.”

ONEOK Field also features water slides and inflatables at Hornsby’s Hangout.

For a game schedule and more information visit: www.tulsa-drillers.com.

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services holds leadership camp

Participants gain skills for future

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program hosted their first Leadership Camp July 31-Aug. 2 at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa.

Twenty-two youth gathered together for a weekend of fun and activities to help them network with other youth and learn leadership skills.

“It’s a combination of young people who are on our youth council as well as other young people who were just interested in leadership,” said MNYS Director Nancy Mason.

This year’s theme was Tepaket Kvwapkes, which means ‘Together We Rise’ in the Mvskoke language.

Mason spoke about the purpose of the camp and what they would like the youth to take away from the experience.

“To promote these young people to either increase or gain leadership skills,” Mason said.

The camp focused on developing leadership skills as the youth participated in activities based on mental, physical, social and spiritual foundations.

“We’re kind of looking at the medicine wheel in our concepts,” Mason said. “Our first day was based on mind and we did a lot of educational activities



Chelsie Rich/MNN

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the first Tepaket Kvwapkes (Together We Rise) Leadership Camp July 31-Aug. 2 at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa, Okla.

and talked about different phases of leadership.”

Team leaders shared their educational and leadership experiences with the younger campers.

The youth were also given a tour of the College of the Muscogee Nation on their first day.

Other camp activities included the Science Technology Education and Math (STEM) projects, literacy exercises, a ropes course, Mvskoke language lessons, arts, games, swimming and motivational speakers.

The speakers included employees from Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments, a MCN National Council representative and former Miss MCN Rachael Sourjohn.

Tyler Hill, a 17-year-old from Muskogee, spoke about why he chose to attend the camp.

“I’ve been to so many and I’ve met a lot of new people and a lot of new friends,” Hill said. “I hope to change my attitude and make me a better and stronger leader.”

Hill shared one of his favorite memories from camp.

“We had a big singing in the back on a balcony; just getting together and singing different songs,” Hill said.

Muscogee (Creek) youth who had completed 8th, 9th or 10th grades and were of this age group were eligible to attend.

For more information call Mason at: 918-549-2557.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

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Complex bowshoot area named to honor Berryhill



Sterling Cospers/MNN
Mvsokoke Bow Society leader John Brown during the 2015 Musogee (Creek) Nation Festival Corn Stalk Shoot held June 25 at the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Brown discusses bow society growth

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The lawn on the west side of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee does not look special. It is barren save for a few trees and a small square shade.

However, this is the meet-

ing place of Cvkotakse Seccvlke or the Mvsokoke Bow Society. Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mike Berryhill founded the group in 2004.

In an interview for the 2007 documentary ‘Cvkotakse Hayy’ (Bow Maker), Berryhill expressed he viewed bow making as a way to interact with Mvs-koke culture.

“In your youth, a lot of things kind of pull you away from your

culture...I didn’t get to where I was involved in my culture again until I was about 50-years-old.” Berryhill said.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 15-125 during the June 20 regular session, which named it the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area and designated it as a place for outdoor cultural activities.

“We feel like it was just a way to honor Mike in a way his legacy would not be forgotten,” Mvs-koke Bow Society leader John Brown said.

Brown said the group has continued to grow and during the 2015 MCN Festival, 40 shooters participated in the corn stalk shoot.

Brown believes the group is carrying on Berryhill’s mission.

“The way that we make our bows, the way that we shoot and the way that we have a good fellowship at our shoots was what Mike was trying to get to,” Brown said.

MBS meets the first Saturday of every month. All shoots are free and open to the public.

Brown encourages families to bring their children and said MBS members have extra bows.

“We have loaner bows for everybody... We have all the gear, their finger tabs, their arm guard and we supply the arrows,” Brown said.

For more information, contact Brown at: 918-759-8283.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 15-125 during the June 20 regular session, which named the lawn on the west side of the MCN Tribal Complex, the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area and designated it as a place for outdoor cultural activities.

Citizen receives award from Tulsa mayor



Submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison (center) received the Rising Star Pinnacle Award from Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. (left) and his wife Victoria Bartlett (right) May 20 at the Tulsa Mayor’s Office in Tulsa, Okla.

Morrison recognized for leadership and volunteer work

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison received the Rising Star Pinnacle Award from Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. May 20 at the Tulsa Mayor’s Office.

Morrison is a 20-year-old from Broken Arrow and a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma where she majors in biology.

According to the City of Tulsa website, the Pinnacle Awards honor Tulsa-area women who are role models in their professions, take risks on behalf of others, perform voluntary community service and demonstrate a commitment to women’s issues and concerns.

Morrison won in the Rising Star category that is for women between the ages of 10 and 24 that demonstrate leadership

qualities and an extraordinary commitment to serve the community.

Morrison was nominated for the award over two years ago but because of funding constraints, the ceremony was held this year.

“In order to win the award, the main goal for the person was... helping women and children and make a better place for Tulsa area women,” Morrison said.

Her grandmother Nancy Smith said Morrison’s leadership started at a young age.

“I first noticed Kaylee’s love of children when she worked with me one summer at my art studio,” Smith said. “She was nine-years-old and she was teaching art to the five-year-olds.”

Since then, Morrison’s leadership skills progressed through her high school career and now in college.

While in high school, Morrison volunteered at Saint Francis Hospital, GUTS Church, was the President of the Key Club

and helped found a high school leadership conference for Tulsa area teens.

While at OU, Morrison has been involved in the President’s Community Scholars, Housing Center Student Association and the Resident Student Association.

Morrison gave recognition to her family for being her inspiration.

“My grandmother has always pushed me to think outside the box and help others,” Morrison said. “My family has always been very supportive of that and everything that I’ve done.”

Morrison hopes to inspire others through leading by example.

“I believe that anyone can be a leader and I think that it’s important for especially young girls to realize that they can do anything that they want,” Morrison said.

After graduation, Morrison plans to attend medical school and continue helping others.

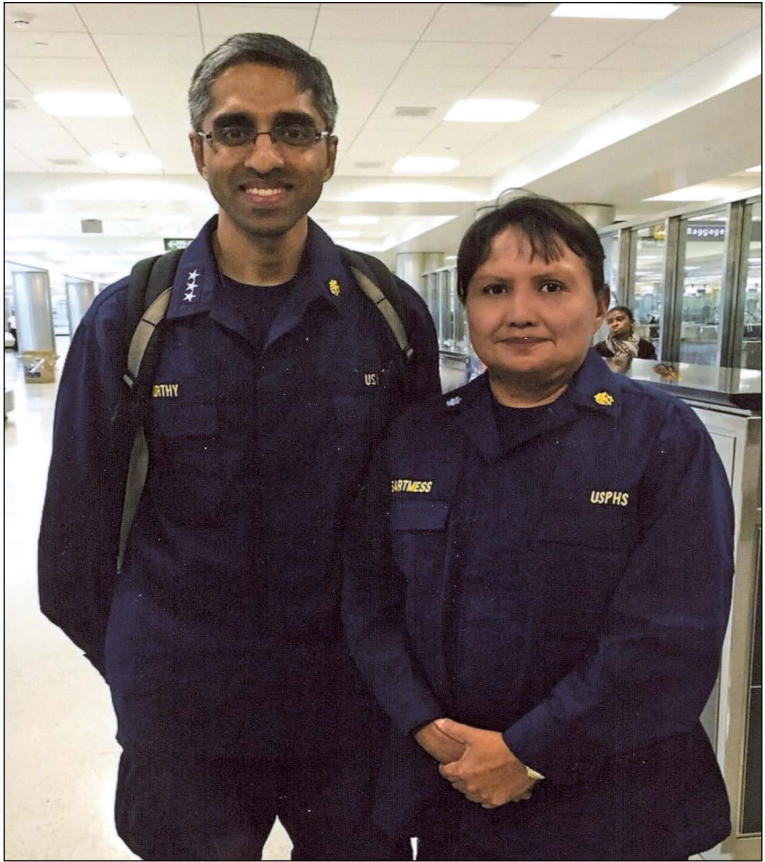


Photo submission
Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, Valene Bartmess (right) served in Liberia to help with relief efforts against the Ebola virus.

Citizen assists with Ebola relief efforts in Liberia

Bartmess helps fight deadly virus

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The U.S. Public Health Service continues to combat the deadly Ebola virus through relief efforts in Liberia, West Africa.

Earlier this year, Muscogee (Creek) citizen and USPHS Commander Valene Bartmess volunteered to assist in those efforts as a part of a 68-member medical team.

“God gave me an ability to help others,” Bartmess said. “I try to do this everyday and I feel God has directed me to serve my fellow man.”

Bartmess, who is also a public health nurse working for the Indian Health Service stationed at the Wewoka Indian Health Center, took some time away from her job to help battle the virus.

“We collaborated with numerous departments to get ready to go over to Liberia,” Bartmess said.

Bartmess, who has over 20 years experience working in the Indian Health field, shared her thoughts from when she set foot in Liberia.

“I never got scared when I was over there,” Bartmess said. “Although I did have anxiety because you just don’t know what can happen. We had got really good training and I relied on that to help me.”

Bartmess was a part of Team 4 relief efforts in Liberia.

She said Team 1 had the most to deal with since they were over there shortly after the outbreak.

Her team continued in the mission of treating the health-care workers who were infected with the Ebola virus.

Team 4 also had the mission of decommissioning the medi-

“We have some countries who do not have the resources like ours so I felt there is some way I can do my part and help them out.”

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Commander of the U.S. Public Health Service Valene Bartmess

“I felt this was an opportunity to help other people not only in our country but other countries as well,” Bartmess said. “We have some countries who do not have the resources like ours so I felt there is some way I can do my part and help them out.”

According to the World Health Organization website, Ebola is a severe, often fatal disease with a death rate of up to 90 percent that is marked by fever and severe internal bleeding, spread through contact with infected body fluids by a filovirus [Ebola virus], whose normal host species is unknown.

While there is still no cure, there are efforts to help other countries that are dealing with it.

“When they called me, I didn’t hesitate,” Bartmess said. “I just knew I needed to help them and that it was the right thing to do.”

Before she could go to Liberia, Bartmess had to spend some time preparing. She had to spend a week in Anniston, Ala., before deploying to Africa during the second week in March.

cal unit since the number of Ebola patients had declined.

“Our main mission for our team was to train the health-care workers in Liberia to continue to take care of the patients that had Ebola,” Bartmess said. “Our whole team pulled together. It did not matter if you were a doctor or nurse or dentist, we all shared the same load and we all were on the same page.”

Bartmess returned to the U.S. April 30. After this, she had to be monitored before she was allowed to return home.

“When we got back to the states, we had to stay three days in Maryland,” Bartmess said. “Kind of like a decompression stage.”

She had a choice to return home and when she did, the USPHS did extra monitoring for 21 days.

She feels truly blessed for having taken part in helping the Liberian people.

“They are an amazing group of people,” Bartmess said. “They were so full of life and gratitude. They were very happy that we were there to help them and they did not take anything for granted.”

BIRD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

counsel to them regarding the incident.

The report shows that at the time of the shooting incident, Stone showed to have 6.8 nanograms of marijuana in his system. The request was submitted by the Tulsa Police Department on May 20, received by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center May 21 and results were reported back June 26.

For comparison, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation website, an individual can receive a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) citation when a test shows 5.0 nanograms of active tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their system.

THC is the psychoactive element in marijuana.

“We don’t understand why the Tulsa County DA (district attorney), who has had this information since June 26, has not moved on that information,” Bird attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons said.

Stone was charged May 29 with possession of a controlled drug, after marijuana was discovered in his vehicle while police investigated the shooting incident. A warrant for Stone’s arrest was issued May 29 with a \$250 bond. Stone has yet to be arrested.

A personal injury civil suit was served on behalf of the family May 20 against Stone in Gray County, Texas for the incident.

On Feb. 4 at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa, Stone approached the vehicle Bird was in along with a 15-year-old female, and asked for identification. According to reports, Bird backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window.

Stone fired three shots at Bird as he drove away, hitting him once and paralyzing him from the neck down.

Bird passed away June 30.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to charge Stone in the incident citing that the shooting was justified under Oklahoma’s self-defense laws.

“In evaluating this case, I have to be mindful of the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and the objective facts,” Kunzweiler said.

Bird attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown in police-involved shooting incidents in other states, disagrees.

“The ‘stand your ground’ law is very clear that if you’re engaged in an illegal activity, a criminal act, then you can’t get the benefit of ‘stand your ground,’ ” Crump said. “And we know that he had illegal drugs in his system at the time he shot Monroe Bird... Everybody else that has possession of marijuana, they are arrested. But for some reason he wasn’t arrested.”

Kunzweiler said that he could not comment on any specifics of the criminalistics testing in any case.

“I can point out that based on reports provided to my office from the Tulsa Police Department, not one person who interacted with Mr. Stone indicated in any report that Mr. Stone appeared to be impaired by alcohol or any drug,” Kunzweiler said. “As I have also indicated previously, this case is

not a closed case.”

Kunzweiler referenced that other states have ‘per se’ drug impairment laws as a standard for determining the presence of drugs in a person’s system.

‘Per se’ laws state that no further evidence of intoxication or impairment other than the blood results need to be shown in order for the DUI charge to hold.

Oklahoma does not have a similar law.

“That is an issue for the legislature to address,” Kunzweiler said. “If the law is changed to adopt a ‘per se’ standard for certain drugs, my job might be a lot easier.”

Kunzweiler stated that the pursuit of justice is not limited to the criminal justice system.

Online court records show that attorneys for the Bird family filed a personal injury civil suit May 13 against Stone, the security guard company Smith and Son Security and its owner Benjy Smith, Deerfield Estates as well as Winfield Property Management.

Smith is employed as a reserve deputy with the Tulsa County Sheriff’s Office. TCSO has been under scrutiny in recent months, beginning in April when 73-year-old Volunteer Reserve Deputy Robert Bates shot and killed suspect Eric Harris during a sting operation instead of using his Taser.

Bird family attorneys had the suit dismissed Aug. 3 after Bird passed away in order to file a wrongful death suit against the same defendants.

“We will do our job, rest assured, to find justice for this wonderful family who has suffered so much. Who has watched their son be imprisoned for four-and-a-half months in his own body; who literally watched him take his last breath,” Solomon-Simmons said.

At the press conference, Bird family attorneys disclosed that Stone has a previous history with the law.

The ‘Tulsa World’ reported that Stone was arrested for an assault complaint Oct. 17, 1996 by the Amarillo Police Department.

Stone was accused of pulling a 17-year-old boy out of his vehicle and striking him in the face during a road rage incident.

The ‘Muscogee Nation News’ requested a copy of the police report from APD, and has not received the report as of Aug. 6.

According to online Tulsa County court records, a petition for a protective order was filed against Stone Dec. 28, 2011 for threatening to burn down his roommate’s home after being asked to move out.

The protective order was dismissed Jan. 11, 2012 because the plaintiff failed to appear in court to proceed with the final protective order. Stone appeared along with his attorney.

Had a final protective order against Stone been issued, his Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement, Education and Training (CLEET) license would have been revoked or denied according to the Oklahoma CLEET Private Security Application.

As of Aug. 4, Oklahoma CLEET verified that Stone has an active CLEET license. The office is unable to verify any other details, such as what type of license he maintains or when he received it.

HOT SUMMER LINEUP

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The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

▶ Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st

▶ Income Verification (last year’s income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)

▶ Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)

▶ Birth Certificate

▶ Immunization Record

▶ Child’s medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.

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It’s election season at MCN

Tom Burnnett/
Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Letter to the Editor

Hello tribal citizens! My name is Tom Burnnett and I am an elder full citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I am 69-years-old and I have NEVER lived within the MCN boundaries. Why is this important in the upcoming election, I will share my thoughts on this topic shortly.

I have not missed my right to vote in many years even though I have lived not only outside the boundaries but also outside the State of Oklahoma since I was seven-years-old. I was born in Pawnee in 1946.

I retired in 2009 in Las Vegas and since then, I have had the time and opportunity to follow the administrations of the tribe and our National Council meetings. Thanks to technology today, those of us living far away can still have the opportunity to see the meetings live and with the ‘Muscogee Nation News,’ keep up on some of the happenings.

This is what makes election time so important to each tribal member! This Nation belongs to each one of us who is a citizen, equally, not greater or lesser, but EQUALLY! By this, I mean we have one vote to cast our decision on whom we want to lead our Nation. If we don’t take that right, then we must suffer the consequences of those who did!

I think as citizens of MCN, it is our responsibility to participate in the election process. Why? First, and foremost, it is OUR tribe. By voting, we take the responsibility to voice our concerns and hopefully get our candidate that we believe is going to do the best job in moving MCN in a progressive, positive way to ensure that not only those of us here today will enjoy the benefits of our tribal ancestry but that generations to come will have that same opportunity. Putting the right candidates in office is the only way we can ensure that for all citizens of the tribe.

With the election season upon us, and the candidate profiles issued in the Aug. 1, 2015 issue of MNN, we now know whom we have to decide upon to lead our Nation forward! Along those lines, there are two topics that I would like to share with you regarding my concerns of where MCN stands on these items today.

The importance of taking responsibility to VOTE! It is our shareholder duty (tribal citizen) to elect qualified people to lead our great Nation. We need a leader who leads with both his head (IQ) and a heart (EQ).

1. National Council representatives: Unfair representation of tribal membership on the council and method of allocation is simple, but not FAIR! MCN is unwilling to recognize the ninth district, the LARGEST district, ‘Outside the boundaries’ tribal citizens. Why is this?

2. When was the last time the Election Board and/or administration reviewed the criteria qualifications of running for the Offices of Principal Chief and Second

Chief and National Council representatives? There is one qualification that is eliminating an otherwise well-qualified MCN tribal citizen. It is the year 2015 and are we really benefitting the tribe with this qualification? I think not!

Studying the 2014 Annual Report; reading the MCN Constitution; researching what the other tribes in the State of Oklahoma are doing, MCN is advancing but we are far from the most progressive tribe in the state. MCN is no longer a small business. Today, it is a half billion-dollar corporation and has an annual operating budget in excess of \$291 million. That is a lot of money to entrust to a handful of people to spend wisely. But that is what we do when we mark those ballots. We are saying we trust these people to spend our money wisely. OUR MONEY!!

There is something very important to recognize about our annual report. We are no longer totally dependent upon the federal grants and money to operate the tribe. This is very important because the revenue we produce as a tribe (over 55 percent) is NOT bound by restrictions like the federal funds sometimes are. What does that mean for citizens? These funds can be spent to care for ALL citizens without any restrictions. But why is it not being done? That is a good question!

Many may not realize that the largest unrecognized district of the tribe is that of those citizens living outside the boundaries. We account for well over 30 percent of the total citizen base. However, we have NO seats on the National Council and are forced to select a district within the boundaries and thrown in there to be forgotten! How many of you living outside the boundaries have ever received anything from the district council members telling you what they are doing for YOU? The only time I ever hear from them is at election time.

The present make-up of the National Council is unequal representation of the tribal citizenship. If you only look at it from a common sense approach, you quickly see how unfair it is! The eight districts residing inside the boundaries each get two representatives. Why? Are there an equal number of tribal citizens in each of these eight districts? I hardly think so.

Under the present system, the Tulsa District and the Okmulgee District tribal members are underrepresented on the Council. Take the Wagoner District; it is over represented on the Council. And who is really unfairly represented are the 30 percent plus tribal citizens who live outside the boundaries of MCN. In reality, if seats were allocated, as it should be done by tribal citizenship, the ‘Outside the boundaries’ citizens should have at least three to four at-large seats.

What we have right now is discrimination within our own tribe against the largest unrecognized group of tribal citizens. Are citizens living inside the boundaries the only ones that care how our Council is appropriating all funds being spent by the tribe? I care, and I want representation on the Council to speak my concerns.

I would hope the rest of you living outside the boundaries feel the same way. There is no better time to bring up this unfair, discriminatory allocation of National Council seats than during the election season. Let the candidates running for office address this issue and tell us what

they would do about it and/or do they believe in the present ‘status quo!’ We deserve to know as citizens of the tribe. Our voices will be heard because it is election time.

At-Large voting is positive for the tribe. It makes the candidates have to run on a platform and answer for their past voting record. More importantly, it really makes them accountable to ALL citizens of the tribe, not just those living inside their district. Positive result for the tribe. Living outside the boundaries, we have to judge from a one to two piece platform flyer we receive in the mail, many times too late. We have already had to mark our absentee ballots and send them in.

Wouldn’t it be nice if all district candidates were put live on the MCN website where we could see them in their presentations and have a better feel for their ability to represent us the way we want to be represented? Remember, 30 percent of us do not have the ability to be in Eufaula, Okmulgee, Okemah, etc. to hear the candidate when they are there! Include us with technology that is available and let us be better-informed voters!

Before the primary election, watch where the candidates RUN!!!! CALIFORNIA, not Nevada! Why? It is because the California Creeks who live outside the boundaries are a big block of voters (who vote) and if a candidate is lucky enough to get those potential votes, it can mean victory for that candidate. Why are outside the boundaries tribal members only important during election time? Otherwise, we very often feel as those we are second class citizens. This discriminatory practice needs to STOP! We deserve to have EQUAL representation on the National Council! Let’s have a positive open discussion on how this could be done and move forward with a plan with newly elected officials. What better time to start!

FACT: Other tribes have identified the problem and acted: Cherokee Nation has 17 council seats of which two are for At-large “outside the boundaries” citizens. So, the Cherokees have been progressive in changes and at least recognize that all their citizens are EQUAL regardless of where they live. When will MCN be able to join that progressive group? Are we putting our priorities in the right order?

Since any changes on the Council would be a drawn out ordeal, I have a suggestion for a temporary fix that would possibly help and assist many of the citizens outside the boundaries—set-up a liaison office under the Office of Second Chief. This office would be a contact point for those living outside of the boundaries. We do not have the luxury of being able to be in Okmulgee and walk down the halls and get our business at the tribe done personally. The office would serve as ‘our feet’ in Okmulgee. We could be assigned a case number and the staff would assist us in getting our business taken care of and handled in a timely manner.

This office would also have the opportunity to gather valuable data as to what citizens outside the boundaries are needing help with and what benefits that may need to be reviewed to see what policies have to be changed to have these benefits readily available to ALL our citizens both inside and outside the boundaries.

Criteria for Running for Elected Office of MCN

MCN is being cheated out of

good candidates because of a requirement that absolutely has nothing to do with being qualified to lead our Nation. I am referring to the one, which states that you have to be one-quarter Creek or more to run for office. A very simple question – What does blood quantum have to do with an individual’s qualification to run? Absolutely NOTHING! I would rather have a one-eighth blood Creek with a Master’s Degree in business administration and a strong business background than a Creek who has never been involved in running a middle to large business. Fellow citizens, our tribe is big business now, we need individuals who are educated, have a track record of a strong business background and that is what will move this Nation forward. Hanging onto an antiquated requirement that is ruling out otherwise well-qualified MCN tribal candidates is not the answer. The tribe is cheating its citizens with this.

Since the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not situated on a reservation, the fact is that the blood quantum is going to continue to decrease. We have been integrated into the Oklahoma communities and chances are great that Creeks will marry someone outside the tribe. There is no way to reverse this trend.

FACT: The current Cherokee Nation Chief, Bill John Baker is one-thirty second Cherokee. He was recently re-elected by a wide majority. Proof that degree of blood has nothing to do with being highly qualified to lead a great Nation.

There’s not a better time to bring this up than during our own election cycle and hear where the candidates stand on this criteria.

In closing, as we approach the primary election season, I hope every registered voter takes a step back, looks in the mirror and commits to being active in our “right” to vote. If you are NOT registered, get registered. The only way we can move the tribe forward is to vote for people who first, have the qualifications to do so; secondly, surrounds themselves with a cabinet that is highly qualified in their respective areas and a leader that doesn’t pick a cabinet to reward them for supporting him and are not all “YES” people!

A strong leader surrounds himself/herself with people more knowledgeable than him. You can’t expect one person to know everything but a strong leader knows how to bring a well-qualified cabinet together and move the Nation forward. That is the quality of candidates we need running for principal chief in this election. Let’s elect an effective leader that has the ability to integrate his head (IQ) with his heart (EQ).

A Buddhist monk, Hanh taught, “The longest journey you will ever take is the 18 inches from your head to your heart.” Our hearts are where essential leadership qualities like passion, compassion and courage reside. By practicing mindfulness, competent leaders exhibit high levels of self-awareness and intentionality in their actions! This is the kind of leader we need to elect this election cycle.

Comments: please feel free to contact me through my e-mail: creektom@live.com; let’s talk!

God bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Great United States of America!!!

MARTHA HARJO



SASAKWA, Okla. — Martha Jane Harjo, age 65 years of Sasakwa departed this life Monday, July 27, 2015 at her home in Sasakwa. She was born Dec. 13,1949 in Wewoka to the late Fred Sonny Harjo and Ida Harjo.

She graduated from Saskawa High School and attended LPN school. She worked as Medical office assistant at Southeastern Women’s Health Center in Ada until her retirement.

Martha was a member of Spring Baptist Church. Her hobbies were spending time with her friends and family and her Church family. She loved going to sporting events.

Preceding Martha in death are her: parents and sister, Mandy Harry.

Survivors include: sisters, Frankie Coley of Wewoka, Laurie Owl, Shawna Groves both of Seminole, Mary Brown of Wewoka; a special aunt, Molsie Palmer of Wewoka and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Micah Tarkington, Tyler Combs, Michael Palmer, Tony Palmer, T.J. Bruner, and Tommy Jesse.

Honorary pallbearers were: Jonathan Owl, Cory Groves, Donnie Groves, Jonathan Brown, Zane Tarkington, Bladen Combs, Kayson Groves and Rylan Groves.

The body was taken to Spring Baptist Church July 30, 2015 for a funeral service with Rev. Frank Moppin and Rev. Kellos Walker officiating. Burial followed at Palmer-Harjo Family Cemetery in Sasakwa.

Martha requested no wake service and a closed casket.

Arrangements by Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

An Online Guestbook is available at PhillipsFuneralService.com.



APOLOGY

To the casino management,
I apologize for taking the Cherokee Nation’s funds. It was very unprofessional of me to do. You gave me simple instructions to not take anything and abide by the rules but I took it willingly. It was not a smart move and I knew there were cameras on me but I decided to do it anyway. I was wrong for what I did. If I could go back, I wouldn’t have taken anything and just worked like I was doing. But I’m going to take this time to work as hard as I can to pay back every penny I took.

To the casino management, thank you for hiring me and giving me the opportunity to work for you at the casino. I definitely have learned from what I have done and hopefully, we will get past this and you can forgive me in the future.

Sincerely, Cherokee Howze

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MNN DEADLINES

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 23

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

OCMA CANDIDATE FORUM SET FOR AUG. 22

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set a candidate forum for MCN chief and National Council candidates Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the community room in the OCMA center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK.

All citizens in OKC and the surrounding areas are invited and refreshments will be served.

For more information call: 405-605-2621.

SRO PROGRAM FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 2

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office has set a program fair for Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the SRO, 333 S. Wetumka, OK 74883.

For more information, contact Darleata Tiger at: 405-452-1102 or dtiger@mcn-nsn.gov.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 7

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Marshall family reunion is set for Sept. 7 from 12-3 p.m. at Nichols Park in Henryetta. Bring a door prize and picnic items. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served.

For more information, call Judy Montiel at: 918-752-5602.

TCIC OFFICER ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the positions of: vice-chairman, secretary/treasurer and sergeant-at-arms.

If the constitution is approved, the secretary/treasurer position will be combined.

Deadline for letters of intent stating the position you are seeking and \$20 for a background check are due Aug. 27, by 5 p.m.

For more information call Roman Powell at: 918-298-2464.

SRO schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of August.

Aug. 18, 25
Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 26
Social Services along with Employment and Training
Closed

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

Hawkins in Lighthorse custody



OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General's Office was informed July 29 by MCN Lighthorse that Daniel Ray Hawkins was in LH custody.

Hawkins was convicted of several charges on two separate dates in MCN District Court and McIntosh County Jail failed to hand him over to LH upon his completion of a sentence for crimes he was convicted of in that jurisdiction.

MCN election dates

MCN Election Board/Release

Aug. 27 — Absentee ballot request forms due to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board.

Sept. 9 — Precinct voter registration closes at 5 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Primary election

For more information, call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board at: 918-732-7631.

MCN employee nominated to Oklahoma Child Death Review Board

MCN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration Director Carmin Tecumseh-Williams was chosen by the State of Oklahoma Native American Liaison's Office to fill the tribal representative seat for the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board (OCDRB).

Tecumseh-Williams received the nomination from Oklahoma Native American Liaison and

Secretary of State Chris Bengé and Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs Brian Hendrix.

“To me, it’s a privilege to be able to serve on this board to make a difference and hopefully be effective in all of our communities,” Tecumseh-Williams said. “I believe that because of what the Child Death Review Board does and because of the statistics that they gather that it does save lives.”

Tecumseh-Williams will serve

on OCDRB for two years.

This will be Tecumseh-Williams’ second term to sit on the board.

OCDRB is comprised of 27 members that include physicians, social workers, medical examiners and state officials.

OCDRB aims to reduce the number of preventable child deaths by reviewing each case, collecting statistical data and recommending changes to improve policies and procedures in various agencies and systems.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit opens Wetumka satellite office

MCN/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority is expanding its services to the Wetumka area. Transit hosted the grand opening of its satellite location Aug. 10 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

The MCN Transit Authority provides transportation services across the 11-county jurisdiction to citizens, Native Americans and the general public.

The new location features an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant van and bus, two drivers and a dispatcher.

“We’ve been trying to expand in that area through the transit system,” MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge said. “We’re trying to branch out because our ridership numbers keep growing.”

Regular office hours for the satellite location are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The cost for a one-way trip within the Wetumka city limits is \$0.50. Transit charges \$7 per trip for each county line crossed.

The MCN Transit Authority completes an estimated 80,000 rides per year and possesses a fleet of 22 vehicles including buses, vans, trolley and ADA compliant vehicles.

To request MCN Transit Authority services or inquire about cost for services, contact: 918-732-7909.

Rep. Jerry McPeak named outstanding legislator by Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association



Submission

Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak during his swearing in ceremony.

MCN tax commissioner and citizen recognized

State of Oklahoma/Media Release

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak was recognized at the 2015 Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association annual meeting recently as the ‘Outstanding Legislator of Oklahoma.’

The award was presented by Michael Kelsey, executive director of the association and master of ceremonies.

Kelsey, while making the presentation, talked about the sacrifice all legislators make, then pointed out that he and the cattlemen in particular appreciated McPeak’s no-nonsense approach and the common sense he applies while advocating for issues for the people.

McPeak was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2005 in what was called by political insiders an upset, as he beat incumbent Republican rising star Stuart Ericson.

However, people who know McPeak and his family weren’t surprised.

Then-Rep. Don Armes, a Re-

publican ex-FFA instructor, said, “I tried to tell them. The political folks thought because he hadn’t been around politics, he wouldn’t be a serious contender. I told them everyone knows him and the kids love him.”

At the State Capitol, McPeak serves on several committees, including the powerful Appropriations and Budget Committee, as well as the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Transportation Committee.

McPeak also is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and serves as the tribe’s tax commissioner.

Jerry; his wife, Veda; his sons, daughters and their families run commercial cattle in the Warner/Checotah area and also produce show calves that are exhibited nationwide.

In the legislature, McPeak has long been a champion for beef cattle producers; his most recent stand was sponsoring a resolution in opposition to the EPA’s Waters of the United States rule.

He currently serves as minority caucus chairman, and the Cattlemen’s Association is working with his office to sponsor

one of the first caucus meetings of the 2016 session.

As part of the OCA announcement, Kelsey said this, “Prior to his election, Representative McPeak was known by another title: teacher and coach.

Most of us here tonight are well-familiar with the great success he had at Connors State College as the livestock judging coach. I suspect there are many of his former students in this very room.

In addition to his influence as a coach, McPeak began the ‘Be A Champ’ show camps teaching young livestock showmen not only the skills of showing but also leadership and positive life development attributes.

“But if you talk with Coach, you will find out quickly that he doesn’t measure his success by the awards his teams won or how many camps he has hosted. Rather, he attributes his success to the leadership and positive roles his students have aspired to in their lives.

“He approaches his responsibility as a representative the same way. It isn’t how many bills his name is on, but rather how well he represents his constituents, his commitment to stand for what he believes is right, and his hard work for the common good.”

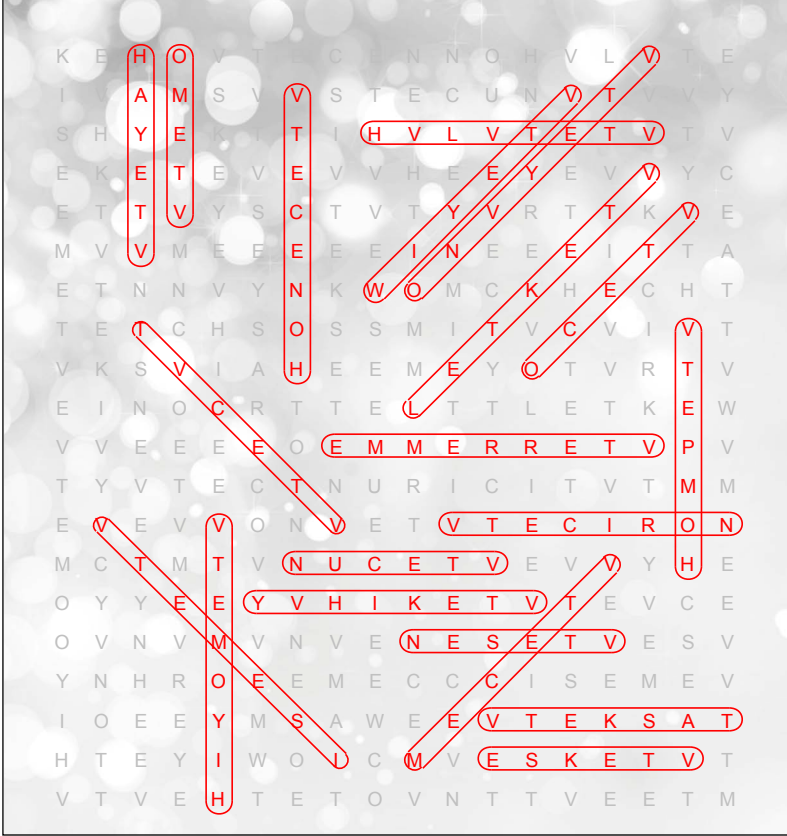
McPeak was surprised when the announcement was made.

“Veda, my wife, knew. Janice, my legislative assistant at the Capitol, knew. But I had no clue. Being recognized by the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association was about as good as it gets in my world. I fight a lot of fights up there. I am flattered and very appreciative of the recognition.

“But I am telling you, my family works hard and is loyal beyond what most folks can imagine. The people at home and the kids I have gotten to work with over the years have all been a huge part of what I am and try to be.”

McPeak can be reached at: 405-557-7302 or by email at: jerry-mcpeak@okhouse.gov.

Aug. 1 word search solution



Muscogee (Creek) duo describe life as homeless



Amanda Rutland/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizens Deano McCombs (left) and Jerry Scott (right) visit Iron Gate soup kitchen for help while living on the streets of Tulsa, Okla.

McCombs, Scott give personal experiences

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The plan for Muscogee (Creek) citizens Deano McCombs’ and Jerry Scott’s day was to get breakfast and go to Walmart to look for a bag. McCombs explained that a lot of people steal backpacks. “You’ve got to start all back over again,” McCombs said. He has been living on the streets intermittently since he was 14-years-old. McCombs was born in Tulsa and described his life as bad. “A lot of bad things happened in my life. I just quit working and started living on the streets. Turned into a real bad alcoholic,” McCombs said. McCombs said he sobered up about a month ago because he was tired of going to a hospital or to jail. He has started drawing again. Scott is from Weleetka but

moved to Tulsa when he was 10-years-old and has been homeless for the past eight years. He is the youngest of seven boys. “My mom wanted a little girl and then my oldest brother said, ‘Oh, here’s you a little girl.’ ‘God dang.’ I said, ‘One of these days, I am going to knock the heck out of you,’ ” Scott said. Scott said that when he was young, he used to ride bulls at rodeos and his regular job was as an electronic technician. Now, he is trying to get on Social Security for disability because he suffers from multiple chronic arthritis. “I can’t hardly do things I need to do with my hands, my wrists, all that stuff,” Scott said. McCombs said there are ‘quite a few’ Native Americans on the streets. Most people stay in groups of five to eight people but he just partners with Scott. “It is kind of dangerous to run by yourself, a lot of things happen,” McCombs said. When asked if living on the streets was scary, Mc-

Combs said, “After years of it, you get used to it but I guess when you first start out.” They look for newcomers to the streets. “We watch out for them and show them the places to eat,” McCombs said. “We don’t turn them away.” McCombs said it is not always easy. “Sometimes, we get real down and out. Wake up soaking wet, freezing. Lose our backpacks full of clothes,” McCombs said. McCombs said it is hard to get into a shelter. “There are enough places that feed you, but they got all these people doing K2 (synthetic marijuana) and stuff getting [shelters] closed down... You have to be paralyzed or half-dead before you can receive help,” McCombs said. Most days after getting breakfast, they wait to see what the day will bring. “We just ride it out like a rodeo, you ride what you can,” Scott said.

Homeless Native American shares story at Iron Gate

Destitute but determined

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — A brawny man wore a red shirt and a determined look on his face. He ate breakfast at one of the crowded tables at Iron Gate soup kitchen and food pantry in downtown Tulsa. His name is Arlo Chisum. Muscogee (Creek), Pueblo and Paiute, Chisum is from California, but his father is from Oklahoma and his mother, New Mexico. For now, he and his brother are staying wherever they

can because they lost their apartment a month ago. He has been unemployed for the last four months because of a knee injury, but is looking for work. “I usually come down here, get something to eat and go back to the temp service and you know, wait for work. I don’t have a vehicle so that is my only way of getting around to get work right now,” Chisum said. He said his brother is working for both of them. “I always make sure we always have food or something to eat, you know? That way the money he makes, we try

to set it aside so we can get another place,” Chisum said. His parents get angry with him because he will not ask for help. “I know I could go down to Creek Nation and get help from them, but it won’t do any good if only one of us is working,” Chisum said. “That way I know we can afford to pay for the place for ourselves.” He said he would only take what he needs because there are others who are in more need. “I am a grown man and I have been sufficient all my life,” Chisum said. “I know when I am capable of working, I will go out and work. I will earn my way.”

HOMELESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

night in the U.S. and of that number, 216,197 are people in families and 362,163 are individuals.

Some clients of RiP, which helps citizens who are re-entering society after incarceration, have experienced homelessness and so Williams and Green thought it would be a great way to see the struggles the homeless have to deal with on an everyday basis.

“The purpose of the project is we’re basically looking at it to try to see what really goes on down in the homeless community... see if they have any outlets,” Williams said. “If anyone calls us and wonder where they’re going to go and what they’re going to do, we can tell them. We can have a better insight on what channels they can go through to actually survive as a homeless person.”

About 15 percent of the homeless population is considered chronically homeless and nine percent are veterans.

Chronically homeless people are among the most vulnerable people in the homeless population.

They tend to have high rates of behavioral health problems, including severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, conditions that may be exacerbated by physical illness, injury or trauma.

“There’s a struggle out there today that people drive by and ignore because maybe they think they’re lazy and don’t want to work in reality there’s probably some mental issues,” Green said.

Williams and Green dedicated two months to getting ready for their project by not cutting their hair and beards to look the part and even quit showering days before the project started.

There were some concerns before the project started.

“The heat is going to be the number one factor. The nighttime, where are we going to sleep at and maybe who we are going to encounter,” William said.

Green shared his thoughts. “I don’t think you can prepare for it... Learn like every other homeless person had to learn to; how to live, how to be on the streets,” Green said. “I don’t think you can be mentally or physically prepared for it at all.” Green spoke about what he hopes to take away from the experience.

“A different way to survive is one thing I’ll learn. I’ve never been in this type of atmosphere and it’s going to put me into a different real of life and hopefully appreciate each day of my life after this a little bit more,” Green said.

Williams spoke of what he hopes to take away.

“Even though it’s only for the weekend, it’ll be enough to where I can take that and use that for me to better myself for the future,” Williams said.

Day 1

On the day of their departure, Williams and Green were as prepared as they could be, only taking with them: one change in clothes, a sleeping bag, water jug, \$20 and a knife for protection.

Williams and Green then transformed into ‘Diego and Ray’ respectively, a couple of neighbors that experienced hard times and were forced to live on the streets, traveling from Oklahoma City to Tulsa in hope of a better life.

The two were dropped off miles away and walked across

the bridge into downtown Tulsa.

Within the first few hours of their journey, they already found themselves in a situation where others were not welcoming to them.

“I think it was kind of their territory so we noticed it pretty quick,” Williams said.

After that experience, the two continued on their way to meet other homeless and for the most part, they were very accepting of Diego and Ray and gave them helpful advice on where to stay and eat.

Williams and Green learned quickly that most homeless hide their belongings and go back to them at a later time since they were forced to carry all of their things on a hot summer day.

They searched for shade to keep out of the sun and did not make it to the shelter in time and were forced to sleep outside.

Throughout the night, they searched for a place to sleep, taking turns to ensure each other’s safety.

They finally found a park bench to sit and rest on but were soon confronted by an officer and were forced to leave or face being arrested.

Day 2

Night turned into day and they set forth to find a soup kitchen to replenish them.

They then met up with another person disguised as homeless (see first person story beginning on page nine) and took a walk to experience all of the other aspects of being homeless.

Things as simple as using the bathroom became an issue because there were only a few places willing to let the homeless use the bathroom.

“You got a schedule of where you can eat at, where you can get your drinks at, when you can use the restroom and the rest of it just nothing,” Green said.

Green spoke of sitting on a bench seeing drug use so the two got their things and left.

“We ran into a lot of different homeless people, a lot of different styles of homeless people,” Williams said.

Some were open about issues in their lives such as violence, drug use, prostitution and mental illness.

“We met a guy that was actually in Vinita for a long time. He was very interesting to talk to,” Green said. “He was very open about his violence and I think that was a shield of keeping people away from him.”

Day 3

After 17 miles of walking, exhaustion, dehydration and being sunburned, the homeless project was completed.

The two anxiously awaited their ride to get picked up.

“We was riding back in the vehicle; it’s a different world sitting in a air conditioned car versus sitting on the street,” Green said. “You just see things differently and definitely will appreciate the smaller things in life.”

Williams and Green reflected over the three-day experience.

“One of the hardest parts for me I guess, what the physical and mental part of knowing the next day you didn’t really have anything to look forward to,” Green said.

The two knew they were going to go home but that still did not change their mindset about that weekend.

“It’s been a real humbling experience now that we’ve been through it. Now that we’ve got to know a couple of them, it’s almost like we’re going to wonder what happens to them,” Williams said.

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Firsthand on the Homeless Project

An afternoon with RiP's informational experiment

Sterling Cospel/MNN Editor

TULSA, Okla. — I met up with Sprint Williams (Diego) and Kevin Green (Ray) the afternoon of July 18 near the Day Center in Tulsa to get a firsthand account of their Homeless Project learning experiment through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program.

I had to immediately introduce myself in character as ‘Ruby’ to Ray and Diego since a woman was with them when I walked up.

When I introduced myself to this lady, the very notion of this formality seemed absurd to her as if it really didn’t matter.

It occurred to me that this might have been the first time in a while that anyone bothered to ask her name.

As a ‘new acquaintance’ to the guys, I steered them towards a nearby paved trail I frequent on my weekends.

It has quite a few homeless camps along the way, both up under the overpasses and down in the ditches on the other side of the highway that runs parallel to the path at the beginning.

The woman did not follow us and they said she had just walked up to them and did not really interact. They shared more insight on this behavior later.

I figured we would start by catching up a little on the project up until then while I led them to where some of the homeless

reside when not out and about in the central downtown area.

After a short break, we made our way to the trail along Riverside Drive. The Tokyo in Tulsa, Japanese pop culture convention was going on that weekend. We encountered many people in cosplay (costume play) outfits intermixed with the general public and homeless.

We took another break along the Arkansas River and lay in the grass while vultures circled overhead. We were passed by couples, fitness nuts and more homeless in transit.

We made our way back to the hotel to get water, where their dispatch, fellow RiP employee, Case Aide Tashina Gilley was staying for support and communication throughout the weekend.

This was the roughest part of the afternoon, as we walked in the heat of the day on that Saturday, when the high was 97 degrees.

I only stayed with the guys three hours out of their three days and all together, none of us could honestly say we still really knew what it was like to be homeless.

I’m sure if we did, we wouldn’t have put the unnecessary strain on ourselves by walking during this time of day as most of the homeless we encountered stayed put in the shade.

I’m sure I wore Sprint and Kevin out with this venture, as they were half way through the project at that time.

We finally made it to the hotel for their short break and I stopped to get the following interview while our minds were still fresh from the experience.

Do you guys are half way through the weekend now. How are you feeling?

Sprint: Tired, dehydrated. We knew the heat was probably going to be our toughest battle. Small break here and we’re ready to truck on tomorrow.

What insight have you guys gathered from this so far?

Kevin: There are different levels of homelessness. There’s some that live out of their car, some that live on the street, some in shelters, some are transients.

Sprint: Being at Iron Gate and the Day Center both today, just seeing the difference in people. We didn’t know it is as diverse as it is. The whole thing is pretty overwhelming after we saw it at Iron Gate.

Some of them are in nicer cars just getting out and some of them don’t have a car.

Some of them are kind of out of it in their mental capacity. We had a guy borrow a couple quarters from us and try and play ‘quarters’ by bouncing them into his wallet.

We started talking to him and mid-conversation he stops us, says he has a call and puts his finger up to his ear and started talking to himself.

It has been an experience.

What are you missing from your normal life?

Kevin: Just the small things. Being able to get a drink when you want. The biggest thing is the restroom. They have no restrooms downtown for a non-paying customer anywhere.

You have to know when these shelters are opened and closed to be able to use the bathroom.

Sprint: Plus when we did venture to a couple of places to try and do that, the look on some people’s faces, it was like, ‘Wait a minute; it’s not that kind of place. There might be another for you guys but not here.’

We’ve had to adapt to that too. Where normally we wouldn’t have a problem being able to walk in and out of places and now

we’re looked at a little differently. It seems like security is always on top of us.

How has your perception of yourself changed as you’re walking among people as opposed to two days ago?

Sprint: Normally I’m more outgoing and more confident as opposed to now because my attire and probably the stench on both of us.

It’ll bring your confidence level down and the likelihood of us actually cooperating with regular people is very minimal. You say ‘hi’ to them and it’s, ‘uh hello’ or, ‘oh hey.’ They don’t really want to stop and talk to you. It’s just, ‘I wish this guy would stop talking to me’ and walk off.

Now how has that gone on the other side of the tracks?

Kevin: Well we met Trey today. He was... what was he?

Sprint: Oh, he’s half Pawnee and half Choctaw.

Kevin: He’s like five-foot-one. He talked about his meth, no crank (slang for meth) addiction. ‘Since the ‘90s, there hasn’t been any good crank on the streets since the blue and red crank is gone. It’s all watered down.’

Sprint: ‘Can’t find that red crank anymore.’

Is that what he fell off for? Drugs?

Kevin: Yeah, he was...

Sprint: Missing a lot of teeth.

Kevin: Yeah, missing a lot of teeth and just so burnt out he probably couldn’t hold a job on a day-to-day basis.

And another thing with the homeless, it’s only one name. There is no first and last name with people. They only have one name and that’s all they want to give you.

You start asking too many questions too quick before you build that trust with them and they’re a little antsy.

We have a guy name Fish that actually comes and talks to us now when he sees us. We don’t have to approach him; he approaches us.

Sprint: And he’s been helping

us by, what times things close and what not. He’s actually coming back and giving us information.

We’ve gained his trust and he’s been with us both days.

Where’s your meet up spot?

Sprint: 5th and Main.

We were sitting on a bench at 5th and Main and he was sitting on another one and walked up to ask us for a lighter. The conversation just started from there and then he walked to another bench.

We saw him a little later and then talked to him. Then today, he approached us and said, ‘Hey fellas what’s going on?’ But had to leave to go somewhere.

Kevin: He had to go use the bathroom.

Sprint: Yeah, and he knew



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program employees Kevin Green who went undercover as Ray (left) and Sprint Williams (right) who went as Diego, for the RiP Homeless Project July 17-19 in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

there were only certain spots that you could.

He didn’t say, ‘see you later’ or anything like that but then he came back and was giving us information and talking to us.

Then said maybe he’d meet up with us a little later.

What kind of information did he give you?

Sprint: Just what time Iron Gate closes and what time John 3:16 closes. How the Day Center is, what time you need to be there.

Kevin: Which one gives out food, which one doesn’t.

Sprint: He said the Day Center, he said he’s been in the streets for 12 years, 12 years ago it was a lot better than it is now from what he said.

His answers were like, ‘Eh, it’s alright; they do OK.’

He did praise Iron Gate a lot. He said they give you groceries and he goes down there about every day.

Kevin: No, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays are the feeding days.

Do you guys see probably spending most of your time every day just taking care of your basic needs and having trouble ever coming up?

It looks like you have to plan your whole day around your shelter, as opposed to where it is in reference to your food and where you go pee. Is that taking up a lot of your time, just basic stuff?

Sprint: It has. I think we found a couple spots and benches where there’s constant shade between these buildings and there’s a lot of wind in between there so we try to spend our time there.

Last night, I had to go to the bathroom and that was kind of a struggle.

Kevin: And, the fireworks were really big to them. That was a really big treat.

At ONEOK?

Kevin: Yeah, I think everyone we talked to talked about the fireworks. They found that to be pretty exciting. After they were scared by the first pop thinking it was gunshots.

Also, we were lying on the bench and could hear a guy playing guitar singing Christian music and doing a really good

on out before they wanted us to share.

Sprint: So that ended our nap today. We scooted on out pretty quick.

So you’re just seeing all kinds of worlds trying to deal with the same one it sounds like.

Sprint: What we found too is when we’re in a pair, we’re less likely to deal with as much problems. Uh, if we went on this solo, I think our problems would increase as far as people walking up and giving us a hard time.

They really haven’t done it near as much. They’ve just been more curious as to who we are and also, friendly. We haven’t had any altercations with anyone.

Even a guy last night... two Christian girls, Anna and Alex go down to the Blue Dome and pray for people. They prayed for us and then we kind of talked to them for about 10 minutes and asked them if they’ve had any problems.

They said a guy had cussed them out and it was a guy in a blue T-shirt and we’d seen that guy 30 minutes before that. He was kind of asking us some questions and different things but we didn’t agitate him or anything. He was nice to us but he didn’t want them praying for him.

There are different triggers for different people but for the most part, we didn’t have any trouble.

Kevin: Also, we got up here yesterday morning and by that afternoon; quite a few of them had seen us. So therefore, ‘Hey, did you just get off the bus?’ So they knew they had a new homeless person in the downtown area.

They’re very...

Sprint: Observant.

Kevin: Yeah.

Sprint: Yesterday, they saw us at Iron Gate and that kind of got us in the club a little bit.

Kevin: There are different groups. There are some by race and there are some that will just mix no matter what because they share a drug addiction.

I noticed a girl will get next to a guy pretty quick, maybe for protection and look like he might take advantage of the situation or profit from it.

If you guys were going on with this, what kind of provisions and long term planning would you make for yourselves? If it wasn’t just for this weekend, what kind of moves would you start making?

Kevin: I’d probably have to find some kind of substance abuse to be honest. Because doing it straight sober is tough and draining and you have to constantly be on the lookout.

I think long term, it’s going to wear on you. It’s hard to see hope each day no matter what the weather is wondering if you’re going to eat, use a bathroom and things like that. I’m surprised suicide isn’t at a higher rate with the homeless.

Well that leads to another questions. How are you going to support your habit?

Sprint: Do a lot of panhandling, a lot of hustling.

Kevin: Yeah, you always hear from people coming out of prison that they have that hustle in them.

You see it today, if you don’t have that you’re going to be at the bottom of the food chain of the homeless. You have to find your little niche in this area and hustle to do what you have to.

Sprint: For some of them

FIRSTHAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

that are down here and have the mental capacity, I don't know why they don't work and save a little to go west. Maybe go to California where the weather's better.

That's what I would try and do. **Kevin:** We asked Fish that today and he really didn't have an answer for us.

Sprint: Why he keeps staying here. He told us he has a brother in Atlanta that keeps telling him to come down. He said he keeps thinking about doing it but he hasn't done it yet.

Maybe he's just used to Tulsa. **Kevin:** That and maybe he's embarrassed. You have to face your relatives and maybe they start preaching on you.

Sprint: That's why we're just trying to be friendly with them and not tell them what to do or how they need to do things. We're just trying to observe really and see how they live and interact with them.

Weighing against people looking at you and judging you, could you see even with your upbringing, if the panhandling game didn't make it for you, maybe turning to crime at some point?

Kevin: You can't say no because you don't know where you're going to be. Maybe a cold night if you need to break into a business. I don't think you could say no but you'd try your best not to.

Sprint: In the wintertime I

'Give me a shot for two weeks and if you don't like me just fire me,' then stay close to John 3:16 or the Day Center all the time.

If that didn't work, I don't know what you'd do every day then just get up and do it. Since coming from where we're at, it would be hard to not just check out after a while.

It would be hard to stay sober and it would be hard not to give up.

We had a guy come by with a shirt and kind of a Sunday vest and we asked him how he was. It's sad because it wasn't like really nice stuff but he said, 'I'm trying; I'm trying,' and just walked off.

I told Kevin, I don't know if mentally, that guy will ever make it. He will probably never have a working job.

He really did look like he was going to try and do something. We don't know what it was but it would be tough.

We had a conversation earlier about their department speaking at Harvard last year that, given the setting where it took place, led to one about some intelligent, eccentric academics that don't seem to function well in any other environment than a collegiate one.

Kevin: We were talking earlier about the Harvard, MIT and how smart some of those people are to the point that they can't function in a work society.

Even some of these people could physically do the work; I don't think they could function in a structured society.

I see some that is like, 'Man, he could work.' But in reality, the

they maybe have a homeless code where they don't mess with people's stuff.

One guy, we saw him leaving stuff. He put it by a storage thing and six hours later we walked by and it was still there.

Can you guys imagine leaving your house unlocked and the door open everyday?

Sprint: No I can't. That's what I'm saying.

We could have just picked up his sack and had a couple of shirts and walked off.

Some people could have used that but they just left it there like, 'Well we know where this guy hangs out so we don't want to do that to him.'

We thought it was interesting. **Kevin:** We walked by a big group of homeless by the blood plasma place today so they're definitely selling that.

And you're giving part of your energy just to make ends and get more right?

Kevin: Yes. **Sprint:** And that's just if your blood is clean. It's a struggle for these guys.

Kevin: But they all have cell phones.

I know just buying the Gatorades today was eight bucks. If you've got to get around somewhere you have to be thinking about your calories, how much you're sweating just for basic survival and everyone we've seen today isn't going anywhere.

They're staying under trees.



Sterling Cosper/MNN

don't know how it is.

Say you were doing something and they ran out of beds at the centers and it's nine degrees outside, you'd be hard pressed to not just go to a car that's parked and knock the window out to sleep in the back seat. Just to be a little warmer.

I bet the winter would be a different animal out here.

Just the three hours I've spent with you guys, you think of the wilderness when you watch those survival shows but it's kind of the same situation with this.

Sprint: What did you call it yesterday?

Kevin: Prison with no boundaries. You've got your young bucks that pretty much try to intimidate the older guys. Even though you're free to go wherever, physically, mentally, financially you're pretty much bound to this area.

Well Sprint, I'll start over with you. What would you do if you found yourself stuck out here?

Sprint: We would just have to hustle at the beginning. But after that, I would try to work to get somewhere. Gain some kind of employment and maybe say,

mental capacity is not there.

More on the road of trying to come up, can you see a hard balancing act? Because you have to put an address down on an application; you have to be washed somewhat; you have to be fed so how do you break through that, maintain it and come up another level in society?

Sprint: That's where you have to lean on your resources. The churches and everything to where you get just clean enough to even go and put in an application.

It would be hard to just maybe walk up on a construction site and try and work there not knowing anything but you'd have to try something. Because a lot of the downtown area, they don't have a lot of jobs.

You would maybe have to go and try and clean windows or something where you wouldn't be seen for a while. You'd be starting from the bottom.

Even Fish who has done this for so long is still struggling. He's not one of the upper ones. He's got his stuff somewhere.

That's another thing. They have their stuff somewhere but a lot of them aren't carrying anything. So wherever, they hang out at

How can you go anywhere if you're not moving around so to speak?

Sprint: It's easy to say, 'I would go here and there to apply for this job or that job,' but like you said in this heat, how are they going to go from place to place if they don't have money to get anything?

How are they going to stay hydrated or keep any food down?

Or how are you going to go to a job interview if you get showered and end up just like you were by the time you get there?

So what is the number one thing you're looking forward to when you get home tomorrow?

Sprint: Shower **Kevin:** Shower, shave, some Gold Bond.

Sprint: Monday we have off and I'm just going to lie around.

You think you'll be more grateful for your jobs?

Sprint: Oh yeah. I was telling them, being out here you have all the time in the world that really sucks compared to what work is. It's fun to go to work.

We'll definitely be more appreciative I think.

Homeless project:

A morning at Iron Gate

Two perspectives on homelessness

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The temperature was 84 degrees and steadily climbing July 18 when Iron Gate opened their doors.

In walked a crowd of diverse people, some wiping the sweat off their foreheads and absorbing as much as they could of the cool temperature inside.

A few minutes later, the guests got in line to see what was on the menu for that day.

Iron Gate, located within the Trinity Episcopal Church, is a soup kitchen that has one simple mission, to feed hungry people.

While some might have the opportunity to eat again later in the day, others know that this is their only meal and do their best to savor the food and enjoy the cool air.

When the cafeteria is full, some of the patrons decide to take their meal outdoors where they can eat at the picnic tables. Here is where I met two people who frequent Iron Gate.

The first man that talks goes by Toppah. He is 40-years-old, Kiowa and from the Anadarko area. Toppah says that he has been on the streets for over

though, constantly moving" Toppah said. "You learn to be a light sleeper. You do not want someone to rob you or try to beat you up. You have to make sure to listen for anything."

Toppah has family in the area and that will help him but he does not want to inconvenience them.

"I stayed with my sister for a few days after I got out of the hospital," Toppah said. "After a while, I felt like I was being a bother so I left."

Toppah said it is extremely hard to live out on the streets but it is also hard to get off of them.

"I do everything I can to get a job and keep the job," Toppah said. "A lot of employers do not want someone like us (he points to the other homeless people), like me. Day laborers will take us because we will work for them and work hard."

Toppah spoke about having friends while on the streets.

"I have two or three friends, but a lot of associates," Toppah said. "Not everybody will be your friend, if you believe that, then you are stupid."

He said that his friends will watch over him, and not rip him off. The associates will say they are friends but take advantage of him without think-

“It can be a scary place out here. You have to always be ready for anything. It is not safe out here.”

— Toppah

seven years.

"It is the drinking," Toppah says. "It got very bad when I got out here."

Toppah brings up another reason why he is homeless.

"Child support is an issue for me too," he says. "I can make enough to make the payment but all my money goes to that and so I do not have a place to live."

Toppah said that he makes the payment and then spends most of what he has left on drinking, hoping to have enough to purchase a room for the night afterwards.

Toppah said he commonly works day laborer positions for money.

"So I go up there and they use me and that is how I get my money," Toppah said. "Other times it is odd jobs. It is not easy but it does help out."

He explained that he once had steady work building fences.

During that time, he said the money was good and he had a comfortable place to stay. Work eventually slowed down when winter came and he was let go from his job.

"That's the reason I am back out here," Toppah said.

At the end of the day, when most people have a bed to lay down, relax and go to sleep, Toppah faces a challenge.

"I have to look for a place at night," Toppah said. "If I find a place during the day time and evening, it is easier for me to get caught for trespassing. So I usually wait until it is dark."

Toppah said that he will find a place that is abandoned, any 'nook and cranny' that has enough room to sleep is where he will stay for the night.

"You are always on the move

ing twice.

"I had four tried to fight me last night," Toppah said. "They know I am hurting right now and they tried to take advantage of it. For me, I can hold my own and fought them off."

Toppah had one last thing to say before he gathered his things and headed off to find shade.

"It can be a scary place out here," Toppah said. "You have to always be ready for anything. It is not safe out here."

Toppah directed me towards a Creek/Choctaw woman name Cindy. She was comfortable sitting out in the hot sun and enjoying her meal for the day. Cindy does not consider herself homeless.

"I have three places to stay," Cindy said. "They are close to this place. I can sleep among any of those places if I need too."

She loves Iron Gate and frequents this area quite a bit.

"Everyone here does not have a problem with me," Cindy said. "There is another place where you can eat but there is one lady there that does not like me at all. I am thinking of other places to eat instead of that place."

While eating Cindy explained her agenda for the day. She said one of her favorite hobbies is reading so she figures that is a good plan.

"I am going to find a book, find some shade and enjoy what I can out of this day," Cindy said. "If no one bothers me and lets me enjoy my book, then this will be a great day."

After her meal, Cindy gathers everything, says her farewells to everyone she knows and sets off to go find that book and shade.

Council updates ‘Disorderly Conduct’ code during session

Further forensic audit funding approved

Sterling Cospel/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held July 25 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 15-106 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a graduate research assistantship contract with the University of Alabama for research identifying Muscogee (Creek) affiliated archeological sites. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement approves the conducting of research by UA to assist MCN in preserving historical sites pertinent to its history and culture.

- TR 15-120 Authorizing the principal chief to execute pharmacy provider agreement amendments between the MCN and Humana for the MCN Department of Health, Sapulpa Indian Health Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The health insurance company has requested amendments to their provider agreement to stay in compliance with state and federal laws to continue services with MCN.

- TR 15-121 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a kidney transplant affiliation agreement between MCN and OU Medical Center for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Hospital Corporations of America Health Services and OU have facilities that can assist MCNDH in providing patient evaluations and renal transplants.

- TR 15-122 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement between MCN and Hillcrest Healthcare System LLC for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Hillcrest owns and operates facilities that can assist MCNDH in effectively managing its services.

- TR 15-123 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a purchase order/quote and standard terms of service between MCN and Blackboard for the purpose of providing voice, text and email messaging services for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH requires these communication services for the quick and broad sharing of important information to employees and Blackboard can provide this.

- TR 15-125 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Eufaula. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding for the construction and improvement of roadways serving Indian communities and it is in the best interest of the Nation to enter into agreements, which clarify the maintenance responsibilities of these roadways that received maintenance through the MCN Trib-

al Transportation Program.

- TR 15-126 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a dollars on the net service agreement with Shift4 Corporation for credit, debit, private-label, check and gift card transactions for the College of the Muscogee Nation bookstore. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The bookstore will require the ability to process these methods of payment and Shift4 provides the ability to do so.

- TR 15-127 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a mutual confidentiality and nondisclosure agreement between the Chickasaw Nation and MCN. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN and Chickasaw Nation are interested in having a consulting session to show the MCN Controller’s Office the procurement practices of the Chickasaw Department of Commerce for the possible acquisition of these services from them.

- TR 15-128 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a change of ownership for petroleum storage tanks with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Petroleum Storage Tank Division for a tank located at the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

An existing petroleum tank is registered under the previous

and Children Program. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This agreement allows MCN to apply for fiscal year 2016 funding for this program.

- TR 15-132 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a gas line extension agreement with Oklahoma Natural Gas Company for the purpose of providing service to the Okemah Hospital. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN needs this agreement to have the gas line extended to the Nation’s new hospital.

- TR 15-133 Confirming the re-nomination of Dan Kirby to serve as the athletic commissioner. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN law requires the principal chief to make this appointment and the Council to consider it for approval.

- NCA 15-146 Appropriating \$218,177.72 to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The Council authorized the audit Aug. 23, 2014, of the Council, permanent fund, Controller’s Office, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, principal chief, second chief and all tribal funds.

Per the agreement, there is a need to appropriate this amount for the audit services to be rendered to date.

- NCA 15-157 Authorizing

amendment, which passed 14-0.

NICCA works to ensure quality childcare for Native children and requests this amount to help fund it.

- NCA 15-161 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Realty and Trust Department FY 2015 budget. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department requests this modification to reallocate funds for other necessary expenses.

- NCA 15-163 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the organization ECHO. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The ECHO widows support group requests this assistance to continue serving others going through the process of grieving and healing.

- NCA 15-164 Authorizing the expenditure of \$600,000 in MCNDH health investment operating funds for the MCNDH Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Program. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH needs approval to expend this amount to reach a \$6 million match for a federal SAMHSA Care Grant.

- NCA 15-165 Authorizing a \$2,970 special appropriation to Bristow Indian Community. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community needs this

tion to the GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This would change NCA 13-260 to have the remaining funds carried forward until expended rather than returned to the tribal treasury.

- NCA 15-169 Amending certain provisions in MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 2, Section 2-101 entitled, ‘Disorderly Conduct.’ Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment adds the following to be considered as disorderly conduct:

Trespassing onto the real property of MCN or another person by crossing the boundary of or remaining on said property after receiving notice that such crossing or remaining is forbidden through:

Expressed communication to the actor, posting in a manner likely to be noticed or a ban from a gaming facility issued by the Office of Public Gaming, the gaming facility’s management or its duly authorized representative or by an actor entering a gaming facility in violation of MCN gaming laws or regulations.

- NCA 15-171 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Lighthouse Administration Explorers Program FY 2015 budget. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program wishes to make this modification to reallocate excess funds for supplies, travel, uniforms, accessories and communications/other.

- NCA 15-173 Authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 for the MCN Tribal Driveways Program. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program, which replaces dilapidated driveways for Muscogee (Creek) property owners and also assists citizens with burial services, has an increased workload and needs funding for additional supplies.

- NCA 15-174 Authorizing a \$5,901 appropriation to Covenant Harvest Ministries. Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

Jack was excused. The upcoming regular session is scheduled Aug. 29.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcncn.com, and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: www.muscogeeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



Sterling Cospel/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon along with author Sherry Kast addresses the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council July 25 during the Council quarterly session at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Council approved a \$7,500 appropriation to Kast Publishing during the May 17 regular session to fund ‘A Soldier’s Silent Prayer,’ a biography on Michael Coon’s father Phillip Coon who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II.

ownership of the rehab center and needs to be changed to reflect MCN ownership.

- TR 15-129 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a Claude Neon Federal Signs agreement for One Fire Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN Code Annotated requires GOAB to get legislative approval to enter into contracts for improvements to real property or buildings exceeding \$50,000.

- TR 15-130 Authorizing GOAB to execute an Oracle master agreement with Micros Fidelio Worldwide LLC. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNCA requires GOAB to get legislative approval to enter into contracts exceeding one year. The board wishes to do this with hospitality and retail software company MICROS.

- TR 15-131 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a federal-state Supplemental Nutrition Programs agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for the MCN Women, Infants

\$150,839.10 for the MCN Head Start Program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program over expended its FY 2014 supplies line item in this amount to: purchase classroom and building supplies, curriculum materials, maintain facilities to ensure the safety of children and staff, purchase technological equipment for administrative use, pay bills, purchase on-going children assessment materials and the Child Plus Head Start Data Collection System.

- NCA 15-158 Authorizing a \$4.5 million supplemental appropriation for the MCNDH FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

As MCN grows, there is an increasing demand for contract health services and MCNDH needs additional money to keep up with this.

- NCA 15-159 Authorizing a \$20,000 special appropriation for a sponsorship agreement with the National Indian Child Care Association 2015 Biennial Conference. Reps. Shirlene Ade and Jennings sponsored the

money to fund their Senior Lawn Mowing Program.

- NCA 15-166 Authorizing a \$4,000 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) student Spencer Torbett plans to eventually work in the U.S. Foreign Services and needs this amount to cover expenses involved in doing an unpaid internship in Washington, D.C., with U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin.

- NCA 15-167 Authorizing a \$28,774 special appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community requests to use remaining funds from a previous appropriation to bring the community activity building kitchen up to code and install industrial equipment they have purchased.

The bathrooms also need to be brought up to code and updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding damage.

- NCA 15-168 Amending NCA 13-260 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropri-

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

MCN principal chief candidates

James Floyd

Principal Chief

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Koweta
Ceremonial Ground: Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye
Education/Experience: Master’s degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity - Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork - established IHS/VA sharing agreements — Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs



Platform: While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

Contact information: 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

Adam Jones III

Principal Chief

Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Koweta
Church: Little Coweta Indian Baptist
Education/Experience: Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council



Platform: I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can’t have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

David Nichols

Principal Chief

Clan: Wotko (Racoon)
Tribal Town: Tukupvtce
Church: Salt Creek United Indian Methodist
Education/Experience: High school/20 years National Council representative



Platform: My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation’s citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself ‘would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?’ MVTO.

MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. **The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News'** as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their **100 total word limit** bios. **No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'**
Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Co-sper at: 918-732-7697 or scosper@mcn-nsn.gov or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

George Tiger

Principal Chief

Clan: HOTVLE (Wind)
Tribal Town: O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)
Church: Yardeka Indian Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)
Education/Experience: Morris HS, Haskell Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary Doctorate – Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker



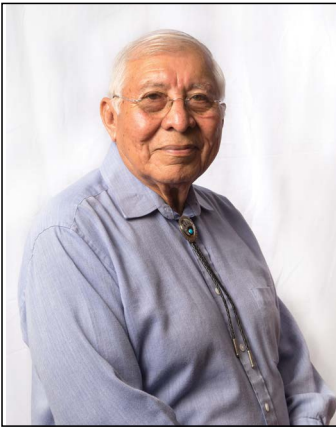
Platform: Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSOKKE ETVLWV’VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

Thomas Yahola

Principal Chief

Platform: The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

.....

MCN National Council Seat A candidates

Shirlene M. Ade

Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Katcvlke
Tribal Town: Cheyaha
Church: Many Springs Baptist
Education/Experience: Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

Platform: We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

Samuel Scott Alexander

Tulsa District

Clan: Eco
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Church: Member of Montesoma Indian Baptist
Education/Experience: Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.



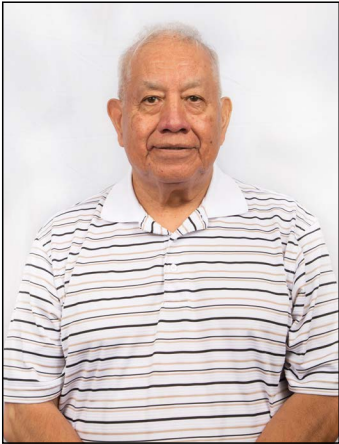
Platform: His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

Wilson Bear

McIntosh District

Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Eufaula-Canadian
Church: Protestant
Ceremonial Ground: Eufaulagee
Education/Experience: B.S. Psychology/
Sociology



Platform: Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.

Del Vince Beaver

Okmulgee District

Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa
Clan: Aktvkculke
Church: New Beginnings Baptist
Education/Experience: Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, environmental management, ordained minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe’s resources.



Platform: Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tony Bell

Creek District

Church: Jenks United Methodist
Education/Experience: Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.



Platform: Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

Contact information: Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511

Alvin L. Bucktrot

Tulsa District

Clan: Tiger
Tribal Town: Hickory Ground, Sand Creek
Education/Experience: Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors



Platform: It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, “Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?” Whether you’re a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.

Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner

Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Church: Thlopthlocco Methodist
Education/Experience: Psychology/
Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate



Platform: I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this time in our Nation’s history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.

Franklin Joseph Coachman

Okfuskee District

Clan: Nokosulke (Bear Clan)
Tribal Town: Etlwlv Rakko (Big Town)
Church: Arbeka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Green Leaf
Education: Associate Degree in Science
Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University



Platform: As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.

Arlene Harjo Davis

Okfuskee District

Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce
Church: Wewoka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama
Education/Experience: Medical field 34 years, with MCN Department of Health nine years, last five years with the Tobacco Prevention Program



Platform: Health, education and welfare.

Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene

Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Kialegee
Church: Springtown United Methodist
Education: Coweta Schools, Haskell Institute, Tulsa Business School



Platform: I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.

No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose ‘Pete’ Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Alabama Quasarty
Church: Tekopvtce
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama
Education: Associates applied science



Platform: Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.

Randall Darrin Hicks Okfuskee District

Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Ufala
Church: Buckeye Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee



Education/Experience: Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

Platform: If elected as the National Council representative of the “Great Muscogee Nation,” I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.

David W. Hill Creek District

Clan: Beaver (Echaswv)
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee
Education/Experience: Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



Platform: I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

Robert Hufft Tulsa District

Clan: Deer
Church: Asbury Methodist
Education/Experience: Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the National Council as well as served on various committees.



Platform: I believe it’s time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Weogufkee
Church: First Baptist of Coweta
Education/Experience: Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate constructor of the American Institute, OSU Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council



Platform: My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation’s future. I will inform our people with complete transparency.

Contact information: 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

Tribal Town: Tulmochussee (inactive)
Church: Methodist
Education/Experience: Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.



Platform: I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two great-grandchildren.

Rodney Josie Tulsa District

Clan: Deer
Ceremonial Ground: Weogvfke/Muddy Waters
Education/Experience: A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15 years experience construction budgeting/contracts.



Platform: I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce
Church: Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Tukvpvtce (inactive)
Education/Experience: Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



Platform: Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won’t be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens’ will as my priority.

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

Sandra Peters

Okmulgee District

Clan: Ancient Mother Clan Wind
Tribal Town: Arbeka-Tulladega
Church: Trinity Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka
Education/Experience: B.A. art education, Master’s study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



Platform: We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

Tom O. Pickering

McIntosh District

Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Hichiti
Church: West Eufaula Indian Missionary Baptist



Education/Experience: OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman of Roads Committee and Economic Development Committee, seven years community chairman, five years community board member

Platform: Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-618-2015

Darrell Proctor

McIntosh District

Clan: Deer “ECOVLKE”
Church: Weogufkee Missionary Indian Baptist



Education/Experience: Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician in manufacturing and power utilities – 29 years. Deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your McIntosh District representative. I respectfully ask for your voting support. MVTO.

Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose

McIntosh District

Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Arbeka/Nuyuka
Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka



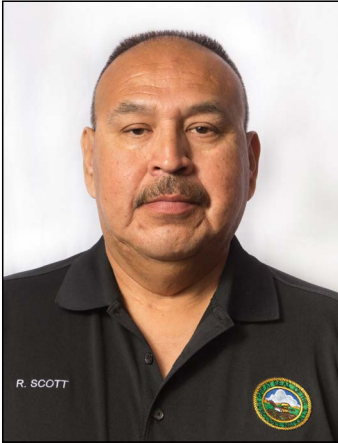
Education/Experience: Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act. Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/patient benefits coordinator.

Platform: I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.

Rufus Scott

Tukvptce District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Alabama
Church: Alabama Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama



Education/Experience: U.S. Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president 16 Years

Platform: I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewvske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Mvskoke Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas

Okmulgee District

Clan: Nokose
Tribal Town: Cheyaha
Church: Honey Creek UMC



Education/Experience: BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees - Community Services and Cultural Committee and Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

Platform: Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

‘Carol’ Eugenia Tiger

Okfuskee District

Clan: Eco
Tribal Town: Fishpond
Church: Springfield UMC



Education/Experience: High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years

Platform: My job as your Council representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

Contact information: Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompvs.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

Eleanor ‘Irene’ Van Buskirk

Tulsa District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Kvncvte
Church: Newtown Methodist



Education/Experience: Bachelor Of Business Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.

Platform: I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God’s blessings. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

Sam ‘Gene’ Whitlow Tukvptce District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Hickory Ground
Church: Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

Education/Experience: Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Mvskoke speaker - Retired

Platform: I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.



Grover Wind Okmulgee District

Tribal Town: Kvsehtv
Clan: Nokosvlke

Education/Experience: High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.

Platform: Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.



Dean Williams Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird
Church: Baptist

Education/Experience: Henryetta High School, OSU Associate Degree, construction technology. Worked 22 years within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, seven years as GSA/Facilities manager providing assistance to the departments and communities of MCN.

Platform: Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Mvskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.



Lena Wind Okfuskee District


Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Alabama
Church: New Beginnings Henryetta

Education/Experience: B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the MCN Scholarship Foundation, member of the MCN Health Board, Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years.


Platform: Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that will give extended protection for our children.




MUSCOGEE VETERANS PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH TUESDAY 10 NOV 2015




14 JUN 1775




13 OCT 1775



10 NOV 1775



4 AUG 1790



18 SEP 1947

To commemorate the election of the Principal Chief and Second Chief, Muscogee veterans of all armed forces branches will exercise the long standing military tradition of Pass-In-Review to be recognized by our elected leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch. The Pass-In-Review will be held in front of the east entrance of the National Council mound building.

- 1000
- 1030
- 1200
- 1230

VETERANS ASSEMBLE AT VASO BUILDING

DIVISION FORMATION REHEARSAL

PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH

CHOW (AT ONEFIRE CASINO)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY 9 NOV 2015 BY CONTACTING:




Ken Davis (918) 732-7739 • Shawn Taryole (918) 732-7745 • Chelsie Dickerson (918) 732-7616 to log in your attendance. Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest.
(In case of rain, the event will take place at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO
10 NOV 2015

- Free chow provided by OneFire Casino
- 1330-1600 - a \$1,000 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600
- This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans
- Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest

- If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service and Muscogee citizenship
- Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow
- Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing



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